

Appl. No. 09/930,804

Amdt. Dated: February 4, 2005

Response to Office action dated: December 14, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on p. 2 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As disclosed in a co-pending application entitled *High Speed Channels Using Multiple Parallel Lower Speed Channels* ~~attorney docket 0679/13~~ having serial no. 09/962,056, switching of input data arriving at a relatively high data rate of, for example, 10 Gbps, may be accomplished. As illustrated in Fig. 1, a plurality of switching elements SE0-SE7 ~~which may~~ operate at a much lower data rate, for example 2.5 Gbps. By the use of a sequential or successive sprinkling technique for complete data packets, a high data rate may be maintained. Data packets arrive from a receiver 11 ~~which would have a communications processor coupled to it~~ on line 12 at 10 Gbps and via the variable FIFO memory ~~illustrated at 13~~, FIFO being First In First Out memory. The receiver 11 may have a communications processor coupled to it. Data packets are routed to a sequential sprinkler engine (SPE) 14 and then distributed at the lower data rate to various switching elements SE0-SE7. In general, a variable FIFO memory is ~~required~~ beneficial where a sudden burst of input data may occur which would temporarily overwhelm an individual FIFO memory without a large scale buffer memory 18 (which it can be assumed has almost unlimited memory capacity since it is remote or off the same semiconductor chip as the high speed memory).

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Please replace the second paragraph on p. 2 of the specification that continues onto p. 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 illustrates where some latency may occur; in other words, there would not be a continuous serial transmission of the high speed data packets through to the switch elements. Thus the data packets 1, 2, 3 are indicated in a line of data being received. The first data packet is routed to the switching element 7. After this operation is started, [[.]] a short time later is as indicated by the time lapse t_1 data packet two is distributed by the sprinkler engine; and then data packet three at a later time [[.]] t_2 . Some latency occurs which must be compensated for by some type of buffer apparatus.